

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An accounting method for imposing, by a server, a charge for using an application program installed on a client, the method comprising:
 setting a particular function of the application program installed on the client as a set key function;
 detecting performance of the set key function of the application program as performance of the particular function;
 specifying a type of the application program performing the particular function set as the key function;
 registering a user for using the set key function of the application program; and
 imposing charges on the registered user only when the set key function of the application program is performed and according to a frequency of detecting performance of the set key function of the application program and the type of the application program.
2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The accounting method according to claim 1, wherein the particular function set as the key function is to output data from the client to an external device.
3. (CANCELLED)
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The accounting method according to claim 1, wherein the registering the user for the application program is performed upon detecting the performance of the key function by the user for a first time.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The accounting method according to claim 1, wherein the setting the particular function of the application program comprises setting an imposed charges key function, the method further comprising informing the registered user of amount of charges imposed at a time of detecting performance of the imposed charges key function by the registered user.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A server for imposing a charge for using an application program installed on a client, the server comprising:

a controller

setting a particular function of the application program installed on the client as a set key function,

detecting performance of the set key function of the application program as performance of the particular function,

specifying a type of the application program performing the particular function set as the key function,

registering a user for using the set key function of the application program, and

imposing charges on the registered user only when the set key function of the application program is performed and according to a frequency of detecting performance of the set key function of the application program and the type of the application program.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The accounting method according to claim 1, further comprising deducting automatically the charges imposed from an account being under the user's name.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An accounting method for imposing, by a server, a charge for using an application program installed on a client, the method comprising:

a key function setting step for setting a particular function of the application program installed on the client as a key function and for specifying a type of the application program performing the particular function set as the key function;

a function performance detecting step for detecting performance of the key function of the application program as performance of the particular function;

a user registration step for registering a user using the key function of the application program; and

an accounting step for imposing charges on the registered user according to a frequency of detecting performance of the key function of the application program and the type of the application program.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client for having a server impose a charge for using an application program installed on the client, the client comprising:

a controller

setting a particular function of the application program installed on the client as a set key function,

specifying a type of the application program performing the particular function set as the key function,

detecting performance of the set key function of the application as performance of the particular function,

obtaining information of a user using the set key function of the application program, and

sending to the server the user information and the type of the application information, upon the detecting of the performance of the set key function by the user only when the set key function of the application program is performed.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A software usage charging system, comprising:
a client computer comprising a controller executing software, obtaining information of a user using a particular function of the software set as a key function of the software, and detecting usage of the key function of the software by the user as performance of the particular function; and

a server computer in communication with the client computer and comprising a controller setting the particular function of the software as the key function of the software executing on the client and setting a type of the software, and charging the user according to the detecting the usage of the software key function by the client computer and the type of the software.